

Reconstruction of the complex “Abylay khan’s residence”, archive reference



Abylay khan’s residence in Petropavlovsk city is the monument of national history of the Kazakh people. The events of the 30-40s XVIII century proved the fact that the struggle with the Jungars entered the next stage which was characterized by the attempt to liquidate the Kazakh khanate. Abylay khan successfully solved the complicated task on the preservation of the territory of Kazakhstan and its people, also, political and diplomatic relations with neighbours during several decades. He entered the history as an outstanding state and political activist.



According to the archive materials it is evident that on Abylay’s request and with the permission of the tsar government, for his visit to the suburbs of St. Peter’s castle, up the Ishim river, in the Yangistau mountains in 1765 the wooden house was built.

The house and the area around it were designed not only for the inhabitation, but also for solving of conflict issues. There are various versions about the location of that house. Presumably, it is established that it was located four versts from the castle, up on the flow of the Ishim river, under the “mountain” (the lowering of the place was meant), which consequently (since the second half of XIX century) occurred to be within the city. On the other hand, it is known that within the 15 kilometer zone from the castles the areas for non-citizens of the Russian empire were not allocated categorically. Later, according to the legend, the house was burnt during one of the fires which often happened in the city, and in its place the stone house (more true the building of Polyakov’s mill) was built. As the saying goes, after the confirmation of Abylay khan’s son Uali the khan of the Middle zhuz by the tsar government in 1821, in the upper Petropavlovsk outer settlement two-storey stone house was built for him. Since then, the winter residence of the khan of the Middle zhuz was situated in Petropavlovsk city.

The building was constructed with brick on the brick foundation in 1829 and till 1917 it was used for the placement of the military lazaret. The author of the project and construction is unknown. The general height of the building is 12, 4 m. In the Soviet time the military barrack was located. The first floor was used as the back regions, the second one – as the living quarters.

The building is the sample of the historical planning of the city peculiar for XIX century which is expressed in the plan complex development of the brick buildings of the military designation and is the architecture heritage of the city central part.

The building has got several names: Military lazaret, Abylay’s White House, or Abylaydyn ak uyi. The research of the documents on the given theme was conducted by the specialists of North-Kazakhstan region during 2003-2004 y.y. in the central archives of the cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Omsk.

The study of the documents was carried out by the specialists Zh. Kosubayev and S. Zhaksybay of the state archive of North-Kazakhstan region. The findings confirm that this unique monument is evidenced by the deep roots of the national history and represents the material memory of the nation. According to the data of the archive materials, “on his, Abylay’s request for his inhabitation near St.Peter’s castle in 1765 the wooden house was built” (State archive of North-Kaz.region, f.158, op. 1, d. 295, l.33).

The monument of the history of the republican meaning “Abylay khan’s House” was put under the protection of the state by the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR as of 26 January 1982 # 38.

Upon the initiative of the akim of North-Kazakhstan region T.A.Mansurov the decision on the reconstruction of the complex of buildings “Abylay khan’s residence” was taken. Realization of the project was realized within the framework of the implementation of the State Program “Cultural heritage” for 2004-2006 years, confirmed by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan as of 13 January 2004 # 1277 and the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan as of 12 December 2005 # 1235. Financing was realized from the republican budget.

The aim of the project realization was the conduct of repair-restoration works at the building – monument and creation of the exposition about Abylay khan’s life, realization of the works on the arrangement of the territory of residence, setting up of the monument to the great son of the Kazakh people “Abylay khan on horseback”.

Total area of the complex is 1,2 ha. In the reconstructed building the exposition depicting Abylay khan’s life was placed. In the museum the historical documents and exhibit items of XVIII century were presented.



The integral part of the museum complex “Abylay khan’s museum” is the sculpture composition “Abylay khan on horseback”. The authors of the project are the sculptor K.K. Satybaldin, and architects S.K.Baymagambetov, V.A.Zatay.

In December 2007 the repair-restoration works of the complex “Abylay khan’s residence” in Petropavlovsk were completed. Thus, the grandiose historical monument which was included into the tourist routes that will serve deeper understanding of history and culture of the Kazakh people, was restored.

On 21 August 2008 the festive opening of the museum complex “Abylay khan’s residence” took place.

We thank the Directorate of Culture, Archives and Documentation of North-Kazakhstan region for the given material.